



PATENT

Customer No. 22,852

Attorney Docket No. 04329.2589-00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

) Group Art Unit: 2681
) Examiner: Unknown
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Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the document listed on the attached PTO 1449 Form. To the undersigned's knowledge, this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application. A copy of the listed document is attached. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed document and indicate that the document was considered by making appropriate notations on the attached PTO 1449 Form.

An Official Action from the Japanese Patent Office, and an English-language version thereof, issued in a corresponding application citing the listed document and setting forth the relevance thereof is enclosed. Additionally, an English-language abstract of the document is enclosed.

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Application No.: 09/893,905 Attorney Docket No. 04329.2589-00

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that the listed document is material or constitutes "prior art." If the Examiner applies the document as prior art against any claim in the application and Applicants determine that the cited document does not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such document.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed document, should the document be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: June 30, 2003

By: // Richard V. Burguijan

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